

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22-33 are now presented for examination. Claims 3, 7, 11, 14, 17 and 20 have been cancelled, and their recitations incorporated into their respective base claims. This action is taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicants' current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 22-33 and the indication that Claims 3, 7, 11, 14, 17, 20 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since each rejected independent claim has been rewritten to incorporate the recitations of its respective dependent claim from among the latter claims, all claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 510395v1